

Councilmember Joe Wheeler gave the invocation. Mayor Gregory led the flag salute. The Regular Meeting of the Kelso City Council was called to order by Mayor Gregory. Councilmembers in attendance were: Gregory, Slater, McDaniel, Wheeler, Keolker, and Johnson.

Minutes: Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Approve the minutes of the 12/16/03 Regular Meeting.'

OATH OF OFFICE:

Paul Brachvogel, Kelso City Attorney, swore in Joe Wheeler, Al Slater, Kathleen Johnson, and new Councilmember Mark Chester to the Kelso City Council.

ELECTION OF MAYOR:

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Wheeler, 'Nominate Don Gregory as Mayor.' There being no more nominations, nominations were closed and motion carried all voting yes.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR:

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Nominate Kathleen Johnson as Deputy Mayor.' There being no more nominations, nominations were closed and motion carried all voting yes.

ASSIGN/REASSIGN COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

911 Board - Assigned Mark Chester and Assigned Alternate Kathleen Johnson.
City Audit Committee – Assigned Joe Wheeler.
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (COG) - Alternate Assigned Mark Chester.
Park Board Advisory – Assigned Kathleen Johnson.

ASSIGN/REASSIGN CITY AREAS TO COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Mark Chester was assigned the area east of I-5/North of the Coweeman River (Butler Acres and lower Mt. Brynion area). All other councilmembers will remain with their same areas.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Highlander Festival Commission - Mayor Gregory appointed Connie Reams and reappointed Cindy Keeney for four-year terms.

2. Board of Adjustments and Appeals - Mayor Gregory appointed Tim Sparks and reappointed Don Hughes and Mike Harkcom. Richard Carr has been removed.

3. Planning Commission – Mayor Gregory appointed James Kodana to replace Mark Chester.

4. Park Board – Mayor Gregory reappointed Kirby McCoy and Shelley Cosgrove.

5. Lodging Tax Advisory Committee – Mayor Gregory reappointed Todd Cooley, Larry Donnelly, Dan Mankin, and Jim Springer.

There are still openings on the Library Board and the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

MOTION ITEMS:

Ordinance No. 04-3531 - Adding Chapter 9.58 to the KMC Regarding Misuse of the 911 Emergency System: The City Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title only. Upon Motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember McDaniel, ‘Adopt Ordinance No. 04-3531, ‘AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KELSO ADDING A NEW CHAPTER TO TITLE 9 OF THE KELSO MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FALSE REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OR MISUSE OF THE 911 EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY, PROVIDING A CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS, AND THE POTENTIAL DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES.’ Further discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Pin Pile Change Order for Kelso City Hall: Upon motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, ‘Accept the change order for the installation of pin piles at City Hall at a cost of \$35,995.89.’ Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Ordinance (1st Reading) – Granting a Non-exclusive, Revocable Franchise for the Purpose of Construction, Operating and Maintaining a Communications System: The City Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title only. Upon motion by Councilmember Wheeler and seconded by Councilmember Johnson, ‘Pass on 1st Reading, ‘AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE, REVOCABLE FRANCHISE FOR A THIRTEEN (13) YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2004, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY OF KELSO,

AND PROVIDING THAT IN LIEU OF A FRANCHISE FEE, THE FRANCHISEE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A NON-DISCRIMINATORY UTILITY TAX EQUAL TO 6% OF ITS GROSS REVENUES. THIS ORDINANCE INCORPORATES BY REFERENCE AND SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES ALL OF THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS OF THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENT ENTITLED "CASCADE NETWORKS, INC. FRANCHISE", A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO. Discussion followed. Motion carried, all voting yes.

Authorize Purchase of Police Vehicles for Budget Year 2004: Upon Motion by Councilmember McDaniel and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Authorize purchase of police vehicles for Budget Year 2004 and Authorize City Managers' signature on Purchase Orders,' motion carried, all voting yes.

MANAGER'S REPORT: No Report

STAFF REPORTS:

Paul Brachvogel: No Report

Veryl Anderson: The Christmas decorations will be down soon.

Wayne Nelson: Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue and the Kelso Police Department activated the Area Coordination Center to a level one to make sure everything was running properly due to the freezing rain and snow.

David Sypher: The RFP's for the fleet maintenance services have been sent out and the deadline is the end of January.

Kent Anderson: 1) Last year we sold nineteen single-family permits for new houses and two multi-family permits for a value of three million dollars. 2) Last year we dealt with 806 abandoned vehicles. The State Patrol Officer in charge is retiring in six months and the new officer has a different interpretation of the state law. We currently have vehicles towed to the crush yard after giving twenty-four hour's notice. The new interpretation requires fifteen days' notice and the tow companies have to hold them for twenty-four hours. This will mean more vehicles sitting on our streets. We will be working on this issue. 3) The Planning Commission will have another community workshop for West Kelso on January 21st at 7:00 here at the depot.

Todd McDaniel: I will be signing a contract to host the 11-year-old Baseball Regional Tournament in July at Tam O'Shanter Park. We will have teams from British Columbia, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, bringing lots of people to Kelso.

Mark Chester: No Report

Kathleen Johnson: 1) Thank you for the public parking lot off of Grade Street. It is flat and with no big holes. 2) I am interested in going to the AWC conference in late January.

Alan Slater: Seventy years ago when we used to get lots of snow, 7th & Columbia Street to Pacific was blocked off for sledding. Bales of straw were put down along Pacific. I think we should do this again. It's a wonderful hill for sledding!

Joe Wheeler: 1) The Airport Board Meeting is Thursday, January 8, at 3:00. 2) Enjoy the weather and good luck tomorrow!

Jack Keolker: 1) I want to thank the Public Works Department for sanding the roads and making them safe. 2) Congratulations to Don Gregory for serving another two years as mayor. You have done a great job. 3) Congratulations to Kathleen Johnson. She will do a great job as Deputy Mayor.

Don Gregory: No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Council convened into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss ongoing litigation and a personnel issue. At 8:30 p.m. the Council reconvened into Regular Session.

Upon Motion by Councilmember Slater and seconded by Councilmember Keolker, 'Move to Adjourn,' motion carried, all voting yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

